

"preaching at" the young people who are under your direction.

To bridge over this chasm is no small or unworthy undertaking. To the young man or woman who has the vision, it must be a tremendous inspiration. It is a task that challenges the best endeavor of the Church, and its successful accomplishment will bring rich and abundant results. We think the Epworth League may justly aspire to do this great conservation work for the Church.

New Bern District Conference

The District Conference season is upon us, and this year Presiding Elder Underwood leads the van on the New Bern District. We do not know how it happened that he got ahead of Dr. Gibbs, who has been a pioneer with us in the matter of early District Conferences; but "Homer" must somehow have been "nodding" for once. Anyhow, to change the figure to that of the popular game of today, New Bern has come first to the bat.

We reached the scene about the middle of the afternoon of the first day, and found the Conference in the midst of a discussion of home religion. The atmosphere was spiritual. There were tears in many eyes and handkerchiefs were freely used as Brother Caviness was telling of the results of a faithful pastor praying in a home where it was seemingly not appreciated. He was sounding the keynote of the afternoon service. After all, we must come back to first principles. The secret of the Church's success is always, not in the cogency with which the wise ones can answer the objections of the skeptics nor in the novelty of new methods skilfully devised, but in the nearness of her life to Christ. The most deeply spiritual man is the man whose life is going to be most efficient in bringing the gospel home to the hearts of men.

A District Conference in which Brother Underwood presides will never fail to emphasize this fact. We have known and loved him for twenty-five years and the most marked characteristic of his life is his spirituality. He lives close to God himself, and he knows the joy of that life; and he is never so happy as when he is leading some one else into that experience, or stirring up the consciences of his preachers to do that sort of work. May his tribe increase!

We did not get the figures as to the attendance of the delegates and preachers of the District, though we learned that several charges were not represented at all. The attendance of the people of Mount Olive upon the sessions of the Conference was superb. The auditorium of that splendid Church was well filled at the business sessions, and the whole Church, including the Sunday-school room, was crowded to its capacity at the evening hour. This fact put more life into the Conference sessions and contributed to the success of the meeting. We heard the reports of only a few of the pastors, but the spirit of hope and progress was in the atmosphere. Financial matters are depressed, but they were not whining about it. We confidently expect a great year on the New Bern District.

Rev. J. H. Frizelle makes a quiet and efficient host. We learned with regret that he was too unwell to be at the Conference session on Friday morning, when we had to leave, but trust that it was only a temporary indisposition. He had the entertainment of the Conference running so smoothly that you had a suspicion that they were all at home. Our host was present to pick us up at the train and pilot us on our way as if there had been no one else to look after; and, if all fared as well as we did with Brother A. M. Proctor and his most excellent wife, there was nothing more to be desired. He has had charge of the graded school at Mount Olive for two years, had previously taught three years in Georgia, where he found his wife, and is now contemplating enter-

ing the itineracy this fall. He is a graduate of Trinity College, and is a young man of fine promise. We will long remember with pleasure our stay, all too short, in his home.

It was necessary for us to hurry away from the seat of the Conference too quickly to attempt any report of the proceedings. Rev. J. M. Wright was presiding with apparent ease at the secretary's table, and we shall expect from him a report of the salient features of the Conference. The Advocate was given a good hearing, and a canvass of the congregation at the suggestion of the Presiding Elder resulted in some new subscriptions for us, even at a District Conference, where you would expect everybody to be subscribers already. Strange things are constantly coming to light.

Personal & Otherwise

Rev. J. H. Shore has returned to Dunn after a visit to Roxboro.

The Robesonian of April 15 states that Rev. and Mrs. J. A. Lee are visiting their daughter in Mount Gilead.

The date of the Warrenton District Conference has been changed from July 4-6 to July 6-8. Let those concerned take due notice.

The District League Conference for the Durham District was in session last week at Durham. An interesting program had been arranged.

Bishop R. G. Waterhouse is announced to preach the commencement sermon at Martha Washington College, Abingdon, Va., Sunday, May 30.

Spring has opened and business is improving. It is seriously important for our pastors to press the claims of the Advocate during the next few weeks.

Rev. C. B. Culbreth, City Road Church, Elizabeth City, was a visitor to Raleigh last week, and we were glad to greet him in the office of the Advocate.

We see it stated that the Methodist Church at West Durham is in the midst of a gracious revival. Rev. G. B. Starling is assisting the pastor, Rev. J. A. Dailey.

Sixteen counties in Michigan voted on the saloon question on April 5, and thirteen of them went dry. Two hundred and sixty-five saloons close in that State May 1.

Pastors in other Conferences are rallying to the support of their Conference organ. It will not do for the old North Carolina Conference to fall behind. Now is the time to strike.

Washington District Conference will be held at Farmville this year. The opening sermon will be preached on Wednesday night, May 26, and the Conference will continue through Friday night, May 28.

Rev. J. H. Hill, Maysville, informs us that the Ladies' Aid Society of that place gave a birth-day party last Friday night in the school building. Quite a good sum was collected, which will go for the benefit of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, of that place. The party lasted from eight to eleven o'clock p. m.

According to the Laurinburg Exchange protracted services began last Sunday at the Methodist Church of that place. This is a meeting to be participated in by all the Churches of the place, and will be conducted for two weeks by the local pastors. At the beginning of the third week Rev. J. C. Wooten, pastor of Edenton Street, Raleigh, will take charge.

It is reported that another rebellion is imminent in China. Dr. Sun Yat Sen is supposed to be at the head of it. He has been out of the country with a price on his head since Yuan Shai Kai came into control of the government.

Pastors will please not forget to give the address of renewals they send in. We have them on our books, it is true; but it gives trouble to find them, and oftentimes we have precisely the same name at different addresses.

The Rev. J. V. Williams, associate pastor of old John Street M. E. Church, will begin at once to evangelize in North Carolina. He sings the old songs and believes in the old time conviction and conversion. He will make his home at Raleigh, N. C. Write him.

The inauguration of Dr. E. K. Graham as President of the University of North Carolina is the leading event for this week in the State. Many leading persons in the educational work of the country will be heard on this occasion, and it will mark an epoch in the life of the University.

Simultaneous meetings are being held in Kinston and considerable interest is being reported. Rev. Raymond Browning is assisting Brother Humble at Queen Street Church, while Brother Harrison is doing his own preaching at Caswell Street. We trust that great good will be accomplished.

Bishop John C. Kilgo, of our Church, will preach the commencement sermon for the University of Florida this year, on Sunday, June 6, at 11 a. m. Bishop Kilgo is a great preacher, as those who are fortunate enough to be present on the above mentioned occasion will be able to testify.—Florida Christian Advocate.

Rev. A. L. Ormond followed his sermon on the resurrection delivered Easter Sunday by one at eleven a. m. last Sunday on the Ascension, which was of high order. Next Sunday he proposes to organize the young folks into a Junior Church to whom the morning sermon on each fourth Sunday in the month will be especially directed.—Scottish Chief.

The baccalaureate sermon of the Benson Graded High School commencement will be preached Sunday morning, April 18, in the school auditorium at eleven o'clock, by Rev. M. T. Plyler, Presiding Elder of the Raleigh District. He is an able and profound speaker and will undoubtedly be heard by a large crowd of people.—Benson Local.

Miss Ruth King, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. R. King, Goldsboro, passed to her reward one day last week. She died in the triumph of faith and after a lingering illness. "Pat" King, her father, is a familiar figure at our Annual Conference love feasts, and his testimony is always heard with much interest and pleasure. The prayer and sympathies of our readers will go out in his behalf in this hour of affliction.

Rev. J. H. McCracken is in the midst of a great revival at Central Church in Raleigh. There have probably been 150 conversions and reclamations and the services are still in progress. The preaching is being done by evangelist E. T. Liddell, of Philadelphia, Pa. He preaches with great earnestness and zeal, and is making a profound impression upon his hearers. The Church is crowded at the evening services and many have to be turned away for lack of room. A fuller report will be given later.

You may always depend upon Rev. J. E. Underwood to speak out when he feels that the Church has been unjustly assailed. The preachers of Goldsboro were criticized by certain parties because they responded to the request of the W. C. T. U., and preached on temperance, we suppose with special reference to certain conditions in Goldsboro. Brother Underwood called them down and closed with this parting shot: "We do not receive our commission from men, and as for me, I propose to attack sin wherever it shows itself, whether in political, business or social circles." Good.